



2014 Proposed Policies: Summary for Families

The Early Steps State Office hosts opportunities every year for individuals, including families, to comment on proposed changes to policies. Many of these changes may directly impact your child and family. In an effort to get your feedback, a webinar has been scheduled for **Friday, March 28, 2014 from 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm (EST)**. All family members and advocacy groups are invited to attend. To access the webinar, go to <https://floridanewbornscreening.adobeconnect.com/esso/>, enter as “Guest”, and call 1-888-670-3525/Passcode 6861777454#. Below is a sample of the proposed policies that will be discussed during the webinar:

- ✧ Clarifies that your insurance cannot be used under any circumstances unless you provide consent (written approval).
- ✧ Clarifies that when you provide consent to use your private insurance, this includes sharing your personally identifiable information with the insurance company.
- ✧ Requires you to send the provider any payment you receive for their services, if applicable.
- ✧ Requires a face-to-face meeting with every family prior to their initial evaluation and at a location convenient for you.
- ✧ Requires a new screening tool for children with social-emotional concerns.
- ✧ Requires your consent when a Service Coordinator/Targeted Case Management Plan is developed, reviewed, and updated.
- ✧ Requires all eligible children and their families to have an outcome and primary service location on the Service Coordinator/Targeted Case Management Plan.
- ✧ Provides reasons why you would not receive services other than service coordination/targeted case management.
- ✧ Clarifies that audio-video taping Individualized Family Support Plan meetings is allowed.
- ✧ Requires an Individualized Family Support Plan meeting before you are closed to Early Steps.
- ✧ Requires you receive a survey during the exit process from Early Steps.
- ✧ Proposes that if you miss two consecutive appointments without notice, the service coordinator and provider(s) will attempt to contact you and coordinate activities to engage you. If unsuccessful, the provider will no longer be responsible for providing services.
- ✧ Clarifies steps Early Steps must take if they can't reach you after three attempts before you will be closed from Early Steps.
- ✧ Clarifies the providers consulting amongst each other must be on your Individualized Family Support Plan Team.
- ✧ Clarifies that your approval is needed to invite the local school district representative to a transition conference.
- ✧ Proposes steps for your service coordinator to take, including closure, if your child has not yet turned three and no longer meets the eligibility criteria for Early Steps.
- ✧ Clarifies it is best practice for both parties to disclose who will be attending a mediation session, if applicable.

***If you have any questions or would like to provide feedback via email, please contact
CMS.EarlyStepsPublicComment@flhealth.gov***